

Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office

Certification Review Committee (CRC)

Minutes of the Meeting

November 19, 2013

A meeting of the Certification Review Committee (CRC) was held at the Rhode Island Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, 2nd floor, Providence, RI 02908 on Tuesday, November 19, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 1:07 p.m. with a quorum being declared present. Members in attendance: Charles Newton, Louise Anderson, and Muraina Akinfolarin. Members absent: Carmen Diaz-Jusino and Denise Correy. Also in attendance were Patsy Peterson and Dorinda Keene, staff to the CRC.

The Minutes of the October 15, 2013 meeting were reviewed. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The CRC reviewed recommendations by the MBE Compliance Office regarding applications for certification submitted on behalf of the following firms:

- a) B. Baptista Electric, Inc. MBE/DBE RI**
- b) Creative Commodities, Inc. WBE/DBE RI**
- c) Michael J. Rizk, d/b/a Construction Risk**

Consultants MBE/DBE MA

After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the DBE certification for these firms. Motion carried unanimously. A second motion was then made and properly seconded to approve the newly certified DBE firms for the State of Rhode Island's MBE program. Motion carried unanimously.

The CRC reviewed recommendations by the MBE Compliance Office regarding applications for certification submitted on behalf of the following firms:

a) Annseal, Inc. WBE/DBE MA

After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to notify this firm of the need for a hearing based upon issues of control, dependency, affiliation, compensation, and the appearance that the firm was structured in order to take advantage of the MBE and DBE programs. Motion carried unanimously.

Hearings:

19 Oaks, LLC - A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding the application for certification as a WBE and DBE submitted on behalf of 19 Oaks, Inc., and was attended by Ms. Shay Bellas, part-owner of the firm. After questioning by the members of the CRC

regarding issues of ownership, control, dependency, capital contributions, compensation, and the appearance that the firm may have been structured in order to take advantage of the MBE and DBE programs, a motion was made and properly seconded to deny DBE certification. Motion carried unanimously. A second motion was then made and properly seconded to deny WBE certification. Motion carried unanimously.

Longhouse Inventory Solutions, LLC – A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding the application for certification as an ACDBE submitted on behalf of Longhouse Inventory Solutions, LLC and was attended via telephone by Ms. Jami Jones, owner of the applicant firm. After questioning by the members of the CRC regarding issues of capital contributions, control, affiliation, and the appearance that the firm was structured in order to take advantage of the DBE program, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve ACDBE certification. Motion carried unanimously.

Old/New Business:

A continued discussion ensued regarding recent changes to 49 CFR 26 regarding Inter-State DBE Certification. New forms for Interstate DBE certification have been posted on the website. As previously discussed, the Inter-State Certification Agreement will impact only the DBE program. Out of state firms seeking MBE certification will still need to submit a full application for review.

A continued discussion ensued regarding potential changes to the current MBE certification regulations. The MBE Compliance Office is currently drafting new proposed regulations for review and approval.

The CRC members were advised that, based upon discussions with the Secretary of State's Office, a determination has been made that registration with the Secretary of State's Office will no longer be a requirement at time of certification, in order to be consistent with current practices with other agencies, such as the Division of Purchases. Firms will be listed as certified in the directory, and will be advised that they should seek advisement from the Secretary of State's Office regarding any registration requirements necessary to conduct business in the state.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:23 p.m. The next meeting of the CRC is scheduled for Tuesday, December 17, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.